

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

ERNST, CARL H. 1983. *Platemys radiolata*.

***Platemys radiolata* (Mikan)
Radiated sideneck turtle**

Emys radiolata Mikan, 1820:1. Type-locality, "Sebastianopoli" (=Rio de Janeiro, Guanabara), Brazil, *vide* Bokermann (1966: 11). Holotype, Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien 23390, alcoholic juvenile, collected by Dr. Joan Natterer, date unknown, but probably 1818 (Papavero, 1971:80); examined by author.

Chelodina radiolata: Fitzinger, 1826:45.

Rhinemys radiolata: Wagler, 1830:135.

Hydraspis radiolata: Gray, 1831:41.

Platemys radiolata: Duméril and Bibron, 1835:412. First use of combination.

Platemys guadichaudii Duméril and Bibron, 1835:427. Type-locality, "Brésil." Holotype, Nat. Mus. Hist. Natur., Paris 2101, alcoholic hatchling, collected by M. Gaudichaud, no date (examined by author).

Hydraspis guadichaudii: Gray, 1844:40.

Platemys werneri Schnee, 1900:463. Type-locality, "näheren Umgebung von São Paulo, . . . Südbrasilien." Syntype, Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien 23389, apparently bought (Vanzolini, 1977) (not examined by author). The second syntype could not be located.

Platemys radiolata quadrisquamosa Luederwaldt, 1926:438. Type-locality, "Rio Doce (Est. do Espírito Santo)" Brazil. Syntypes, Mus. Zool. Univ. São Paulo 62, 64, dried males, collected by E. Garbe in 1906; and 337, dried female, collected by E. Garbe in 1919. All from the Rio Doce (examined by author).

Platemys quadrisquamosa: Fróes, 1957:21.

Platemys radiolata radiolata: Pritchard, 1979:780.

• **CONTENT.** *Platemys radiolata* is a monotypic species.

• **DEFINITION.** Adults grow to 200 mm in carapace length; there is no sexual dimorphism in size. The flat, ovate carapace is wider posteriorly than anteriorly, has a shallow groove extending between the second and fourth vertebral scutes, and has a slight posterior notch. In adults, the first and fifth vertebrals are much wider than long, with the first widest of all, whereas the second and third are usually slightly wider than long, and the fourth may be longer than wide. The cervical scute is long and narrow. The anterior- and posteriormost marginals are widest; the lateral ones are narrowest and slightly upturned. The posterior marginals are slightly flared and serrated. The vertebrals and pleurals contain numerous low ridges radiating anteriorly from the posterior margin of each scute. The carapace is highest at the level of the seam between the second and third vertebrals and widest at the level of the sixth to eighth marginals. In color, the carapace is uniformly dark brown, olive, gray, or black. The adult plastron and bridge are yellow with either a large black blotch or dark mottlings on each scute, or dark seam borders. The forelobe of the plastron is broader than the hindlobe and is upturned slightly. The hindlobe has a posterior notch. The length of the intergular is slightly less than half that of the plastral forelobe. The head is olive to grayish brown dorsally and yellowish laterally and ventrally. The unnotched jaws are yellow to horn color and may contain some dark mottling. The dorsal surface of the head is covered with numerous irregularly shaped scales. The snout is short and only slightly projecting. Two small yellow barbels are present on the chin, and the iris of the eye is white. The dorsal surface of the neck bears numerous very short rounded tubercles. Those on the sides of the neck are fewer and smaller. The neck is olive to brown dorsally and yellow ventrally. The toes are webbed and the anterior surfaces of the limbs are covered with large scales. The thighs have a few scattered small pointed tubercles. The outer surfaces of the limbs are olive or brown and the inner surfaces yellow. The olive to brown tail is relatively short.

Adult males have concave plastra and longer, thicker tails with the vents beyond the carapacial margin. Adult females have flat plastra and short tails with the vent beneath the carapace.

Hatchlings of *P. radiolata* may be confused with members of the genus *Phrynops* due to their relatively large heads. They are approximately 30 mm in carapace length with grayish-brown carapaces having a wedge-shaped yellow mark on each marginal. The plastron is yellow with a large, dark central blotch extending outward along the seams. The yellow bridge contains two dark spots. The underside of the throat and neck is yellow to cream with large dark blotches. Each hind leg has a pre-tibial flap of large scales (Rhodin, *in litt.*); a characteristic never found in *Phrynops*, the only genus with which confusion is likely.

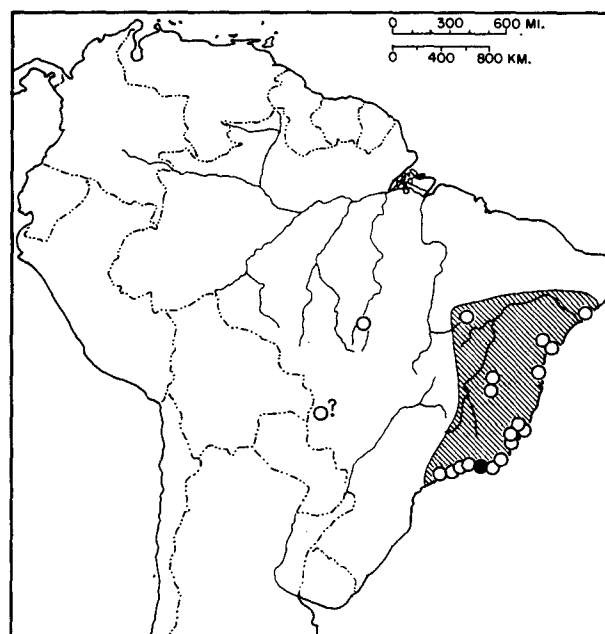
• **DESCRIPTIONS.** Descriptions of adults are presented in Mikan (1820), Duméril and Bibron (1835), Boulenger (1889), Schnee (1900), Siebenrock (1902), Rust (1936), Kanberg (1937), Pritchard (1979), and Freiberg (1972). Fürbringer (1922) describes the hyoid apparatus and visceral muscles.

• **ILLUSTRATIONS.** Drawings or black and white photographs of adults appear in Mikan (1820), Schnee (1900), Luederwaldt (1926), Rust (1936), Kanberg (1937), and Wermuth and Mertens (1961). Wermuth and Mertens also have drawings of the carapace and plastron. Pritchard (1979) shows a black and white photograph of the plastron, and Duméril (1854) presents a drawing of the plastron.

• **DISTRIBUTION.** *Platemys radiolata* occurs entirely within Brazil, ranging from the states of Bahia, Minas Gerais and Mato Grosso southward to the vicinity of the city of São Paulo. Most specimens are from the coastal regions, but Rhodin et al. (1983) reported that the species occurs at Jacaré, Rio Kuluene, Mato Grosso. There is also a questionable record from the Rio Paraguay.

• **FOSSIL RECORD.** No fossils of *Platemys radiolata* have been reported.

• **PERTINENT LITERATURE.** Besides descriptions, little has been published on *Platemys radiolata*. Vernacular names and their meanings are in Mittermeier et al. (1980). Ewert (1979) gives measurements of hatchlings. Rust (1936) and Kanberg (1937) present natural history notes on captives, and Lotze (1963) reports cleaning behavior by *Podocnemis expansa* toward *Platemys radiolata*. Parsons (1968) discusses the choanae, and Frair (1982) serum electrophoretic patterns.



MAP. Solid circle marks the type locality; hollow circles mark other selected localities. Question mark indicates questionable record.

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